



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for November 27, 2013

[Grosse Pointe Park to announce discipline, reforms in police video probe](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/27/13

Grosse Pointe Park officials will announce findings today of an internal investigation into allegations that a man was made to sing, dance and make strange noises while being recorded by a police officer.

[Michigan Radio: 1970s Detroit busing and its long shadow](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/26/13

Michigan Radio's [State of Opportunity](#) project takes a look at the long shadow cast by the 1970s Detroit school busing controversy.

[Bridge Magazine: Where new Michiganders are moving from - and where old ones are going](#)

From the Detroit Free Press and Bridge Magazine, 11/26/13

While the Internal Revenue Service works to fix the problems with its 2010-2011 state-to-state migration data files, the Census Bureau has released information gathered in the 2012 American Community Survey on migration to and from Michigan between 2011 and 2012. And the news is, if not good, not as bad as it has been: The state's population loss seems to be slowing.

[Grosse Pointe Park police to undergo sensitivity training to deal with mentally ill people](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/25/13

The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety is expected to announce plans this week to implement sensitivity training and training in how to interact with mentally ill people for all of its police officers.

[FBI: Hate crime incidents down slightly last year](#)

From the Detroit News, 11/25/13

Washington — A man who stockpiled weapons and ammunition at a shopping mall storage room was preparing to start a race war and planned to carry out assassinations based on race, religion and ethnicity, federal prosecutors said.

[Deaf community backs stiffer regs for interpreters: Legislature to hold hearings on proposal](#)

From Crain's Detroit Business, 11/24/13

The deaf and hard-of-hearing community is heartened by proposed regulations on interpreters issued late last week by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights that give deaf patients the ability to use good-faith judgment to refuse inadequate video remote interpreting services at medical facilities.

[Civil rights leader Imad Hamad retires in the face of sex harassment, assault allegations](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/22/13

The longtime director of the Michigan office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) retired today amid mounting pressure for him to leave over allegations of sexual harassment that have rocked the organization.

[Florida bullying-suicide case: Charges dropped against teens](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/21/13

ORLANDO, FLA. — One of two teens who had faced bullying charges related to the suicide of a classmate said today she did not do anything wrong.

[Owner, other employee speak out after alleged racial discrimination, defective funeral vaults at business](#)

From Fox 2 Detroit, 11/21/13

(WJBK) --It's been a week since Fox 2 Problem Solver M.L. Elrick exposed a troubling situation at a local shop, American Eagle Precast. The report investigated allegations of racial discrimination and claims that defective funeral vaults were sent to black cemeteries.

[Michigan prisons to offer halal meals under lawsuit agreement](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/21/13

Observant Muslim inmates in Michigan prisons will now be guaranteed the option of halal meals and celebrating Islamic holidays, under an agreement reached this week between the ACLU and the Department of Corrections.

[Being black at the University of Michigan: Students tweet their experiences](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/20/13

African American students and alumni of the University of Michigan are taking to Twitter to share what it's like to be a black student at the university. The hashtag #BBUM, which stands for Being Black at UM, became a top trend on Twitter on Tuesday.

[Battle Creek struggles with fair housing options](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/17/13

BATTLE CREEK — City officials say they are committed to improving the community's access to fair housing options after a study found socioeconomic inequality in local neighborhoods, employer recommendations to live outside Battle Creek and limited types of housing in certain parts of town.

[Passengers side with blind man against flight attendant](#)

From Click on Detroit, 11/15/13

NEW YORK (CNN) — Usually airline passengers side with flight attendants when it comes to safety, but in the case of a US Airways flight Wednesday night, passengers rallied around a blind man and his guide dog and disembarked en masse.

[MSU Extension arming adults in bully battle](#)

From the Gaylord Herald Times, 11/14/13

GAYLORD — Michigan State University has been at the forefront for information on bullying and news about what's happening to prevent it.

[Racial slur found on Jenison home's siding, police investigating](#)

From MLive, 11/14/13

OTTAWA COUNTY, MI — Police are investigating what appeared to be someone's attempt to scrawl a racial slur on a Jenison home's siding several days ago.

[Bank of America still neglecting foreclosures, says Fair Housing Center of West Michigan](#)

From MLive, 11/14/13

WASHINGTON, DC – Bank of America continues to neglect the foreclosed properties it holds in poor and non-white neighborhoods, according to Nancy Haynes, head of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan.

[Noose statue at center of discrimination lawsuit in Detroit](#)

From WJBK (Fox 2), 11/14/13

DETROIT (WJBK) -- Images can be very powerful, and few images in America's troubled history of race relations are more powerful than a noose.

Where Was Granholm On Civil Rights?

From MIRS, 11/14/13

As the dialogue over Gov. Rick SNYDER and the possible inclusion of the LGBT community in the state's civil rights act continues (See "Snyder Dodges Elliott-Larsen Expansion Questions," 10/24/13), some bloggers have wondered why former Gov. Jennifer GRANHOLM never did anything on the issue?

After some checking it appears she was active on it, but never got support from lawmakers to do it.

Granholm's former legal advisor, Steve Liedel wrote, "The Governor was a constant proponent for change throughout her tenure as Governor. In response to the question, "Should Michigan's Elliot-Larsen anti-discrimination law be expanded to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation?" Granholm always had a one-word answer: "Yes."

He also recounted comments from her 2006 re-election bid in which she also embraced the expansion of the law to include gays, which was consistent with her stance when she ran the first time in 2002.

Liedel blamed the "Republican legislative chambers that refused to act on the legislation."

A source familiar with her record indicated she tried to include the gay community under the state's hate crimes act, but failed to get the votes to do it.

She did order the Department of Corrections to stop asking if prisoners were gay. Through the Civil Rights Department, 200 staffers were trained on LGBT issues during her tenure and she appointed a LGBT liaison in the department, as well.

[Texas University's Race Admissions Policy Is Debated Before a Federal Court](#)

From the New York Times, 11/13/13

AUSTIN, Tex. — An affirmative-action program at the University of Texas at Austin that takes applicants' race into account was unnecessary because the campus had achieved a "critical mass" of minority students, lawyers for the white applicant who sued the university told a federal appeals court here on Wednesday in a case with high stakes for the future of race-conscious admissions policies at public colleges and universities.

[Detroit woman awarded \\$600k in Greektown Casino discrimination lawsuit](#)

From Fox 2 Detroit, 11/11/13

DETROIT (WJBK) - A Detroit woman will get \$600,000 from Greektown Casino but not from winning a jackpot - she won a lawsuit.

[Local Arabs respond to mascot controversy](#)

From WXYZ, 11/11/13

DEARBORN, Mich. (WXYZ) - While a Southern California high school has come under fire for its mascot, members of the Dearborn Arab community say the caricature should be celebrated.

[Female staff quits Arab-American civil rights group in protest over sexual harassment](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/9/13

All of the women who worked in the national office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) resigned this week in protest of the group's recent dismissal of its national communications director after he spoke out against sexual harassment, according to current and former ADC members.

[Washtenaw County students confront racism, bullying at forum](#)

From MLive, 11/8/13

"Only laundry should be separated by color."

[Meridian Twp. passes anti-discrimination ordinance](#)

From the Lansing State Journal, 11/8/13

MERIDIAN TWP. — Meridian Township became the 30th community in Michigan to pass an ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation Thursday and the third Lansing-area township to do so since October.

[Equal Business Opportunity report: Grand Rapids touts bid discounts for minority subcontractors](#)

From MLive, 11/8/13

GRAND RAPIDS — Four times in 2012 the low bidder on a city construction job got trumped by a competitor that scored points for using minority or veteran-owned subcontractors, according to a report from the city's Equal Business Opportunity office.

[Rev. Al Sharpton calls for 'justice' in Dearborn Heights shooting](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/8/13

The Rev. Al Sharpton released a statement today "calling for justice" in the shooting death of a 19-year-old Detroit woman in Dearborn Heights.

[Trayvon Martin's mother to Muskegon crowd: 'How are you going to change things?'](#)

From MLive, 11/8/13

MUSKEGON — Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, a Florida teen who was shot to death in 2012, encouraged an audience of about 300 people Thursday to stem violence by becoming more involved in their communities.

[Former Michigan assistant attorney general suing for wrongful termination](#)

From Click on Detroit, 11/8/13

Detroit — A former Michigan assistant attorney general fired for misconduct is now suing.

Andrew Shirvell was accused of stalking and harassing former University of Michigan student body president Chris Armstrong. A federal court jury awarded Armstrong \$4.5 million in his lawsuit against Shirvell.

[California high school's Arab mascot draws ire](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/7/13

THERMAL, CALIF. — A high school here is being pressured to abandon its team name — the Arabs — and mascot because of accusations that is derogatory.

[Appeals court to hear U-M tenure case involving gay law professor](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/7/13

A former University of Michigan Law School professor's claim that he was denied tenure because he is gay will come before the state Court of Appeals on Friday.

[Muslim workers say they were fired for praying](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/7/13

CINCINNATI — For more than three years, Mohamed Maow worked at DHL Global Mail in Hebron, Ky. He said he earned \$11.57 an hour to sort mail and was paid time-and-a-half for overtime.

[Civil rights giant: How autoworker's son became justice crusader](#)

From the Detroit News, 11/7/13

As a federal judge, Damon J. Keith has presided over some of the most difficult cases of the last 50 years. He handed down decisions involving such hot-button social issues as workplace discrimination, illegal wiretapping and deportation of alleged terrorists.

[GM to recognize same-sex marriage regardless of state](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/6/13

General Motors will now allow gay and lesbian employees to buy health care insurance for their partners without incurring a tax penalty of up to \$1,000.

[SVSU earns new diversity award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine](#)

From MLive, 11/6/13

KOCHVILLE TOWNSHIP, MI — INSIGHT into Diversity has recognized Saginaw Valley State University for its commitment to diversity.

[Michigan partnership aims to boost small business loans for women, minorities](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/5/13

Small and growing Michigan businesses will get new access to loans under a public-private partnership involving the state and Huntington Bank.

[Senate moves ahead on gay rights bill](#)

From the Detroit News, 11/5/13

Washington — The Senate is moving forward on the first major bill barring workplace discrimination against gays in nearly two decades as Americans' shifting views about homosexuality have significantly changed the political dynamic.

[Lempert & Kidder: State should clarify argument in affirmative action case](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/4/13

We hope Michigan's attorney general and solicitor general follow the example of U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, who, recently — to his credit — took his lumps and notified the U.S. Supreme Court that he had unintentionally misled the court during an oral argument last year.

[Toward Ending Workplace Discrimination](#)

From the New York Times, 11/4/13

An overdue measure to outlaw employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity cleared a procedural hurdle on Monday night in the Senate. The move is one step toward putting into federal law a basic principle most Americans support: Job applicants and employees should be judged on their professional credentials and the caliber of their work, and not be held back because of who they are.

[Why wait 11 months to extend civil rights to the LGBT community?](#)

From MLive, 11/3/13

The state's gay community has been waiting for thirty years, so what's another 11 months?

[U-M fraternity apologizes for sexist, racist ads](#)

From the Detroit Free Press, 11/1/13

A fraternity at the University of Michigan has apologized for party advertisements that used derogatory words for women and stereotyped blacks.

[Gender equity concerns: Western Michigan University professors to receive salary adjustments](#)

From MLive, 10/31/13

KALAMAZOO – Less than two weeks after professors voted to censure the provost over his handling of the matter, some Western Michigan University professors received letters Wednesday announcing that they would be receiving pay adjustments in their Nov. 19 paychecks.

[Arab American Heritage Council recognizes three community service leaders](#)

From MLive, 10/30/13

FLINT — The Arab American Heritage Council-Flint held the 17th annual "Ensure the legacy" dinner and awards banquet Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the Riverfront Banquet Center in Downtown Flint.